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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,668	08/16/2001	Andrew Michael Pelletier	GEMS:0055--1/YOD 31-PN-62	3806

7590 07/03/2002

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EXAMINER

BOCKELMAN, MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3762	

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/931,668	PELLETIER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark W Bockelman	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 16-35 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 16-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. The examiner's acknowledge's applicant's election with traverse of in Paper No.3 and while not necessarily agreeing with applicant's arguments, the examiner hereby withdraws the previous election requirement and examine all pending claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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3. Claims 16-18, 21-27, 28-31, 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gat USPN 5,954,663.

Gat teaches a network of fetal sensors for sensing multiple patients using a plurality of window pages (see fig 2) that allows a particular patient data to be selected by a command that may result in graphical data as seen in figure 2c. The commands allow for realtime display (see column 7 lines 53-59 and column 11 lines 19-25) as well as the ability to retrieve or playback past data (column 7 lines 28-40). The examiner considers the Gat computer connections to be a configurable network link since the displays are interlinked and configurable to various patients.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 16-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gat USPN 5,954,663 in view of Brown USPN 6,381,577, Halpern et al USPN 5,687,717 or Dempsey et al USPN 6,057,758

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While the examiner considers Gat to teach claims 16-18, 21-27, 28-31, 34-35 in terms of their play and simple meaning, in the event that the claims are read more narrower, to be limited to the internet, with a browser, the examiner considers the use of such to be obvious in view of the wealth of prior art. Brown teaches the advantages of providing patient monitoring system to enable multiuser capabilities and to provide feedback to healthcare industry. Halpern et al, likewise uses an internet environment (column 8 line 42) for fetal monitoring (column 11 54) and Dempsey et al as well. In lieu of that shown in the prior, the examiner considers it obvious to employ the Gat fetal monitoring system on an internet type connection since it was well known in the art to do so for the benefits expressed by Brown Halpren and Dempsey.

Double Patenting

6. Claims 16-35 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-7 of U. S. Patent No. 6,350,237 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows: As noted in applicant's response, the new claims 27-35 correspond to those of the patent claims which are patently indistinct from claims 16-27 in this application.

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Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Bockelman whose telephone number is (703) 308-2112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes, can be reached on (703) 308-5181. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3591.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

MWB

June 30, 2002


MARK BOCKELMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER